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PRESS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY PACIFIC DEPUTY COMMANDING GENERAL VISITS BANGLADESH

DHAKA, April __, 2008 -- U.S. Army Pacific Command Deputy Commander Major General Patrick D. Wilson completed a two-day visit to Bangladesh today. The primary purpose of Major General Wilson's visit was to observe Exercise Shanti Doot 2, a co-sponsored Bangladesh -U.S. military exercise under the Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI).

GPOI is a five-year program managed by the U.S. Department of State to address major gaps in international peace operations.

Armed forces from Brunei, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, South Korea, and Tonga are training along side their counterparts from the U.S. and Bangladesh. The field training exercises held at the Rajendrapur Cantonment are training conventional forces in peace operations core competencies. U.S., Bangladeshi and international forces are conducting peace operations training and tactical exercises designed to improve multi-national speed of response, mission effectiveness, interoperability and unity of effort.

Through participation in this exercise, U.S., Bangladeshi and other international forces will strengthen their peace operations capabilities, improve interoperability and gain planning expertise. The overall goal is for participants to achieve United Nations "Training Recognition" status, training Bangladeshi armed forces, U.S. and international instructors as part of GPOI.

The U.S./Bangladeshi military relationship is vibrant. Approximately 30 U.S. military, 350 Bangladesh Soldiers, and over 400 armed forces from other countries are participating in Shanti Doot 2.

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Note: A Bangla translation of this article is also available at the American Center. If you are interested in the translation, please call the American Center Press Section, Tel: 8837150-4, Fax: 9885688; e-mail: DhakaPA@state.gov; Website: <http://dhaka.usembassy.gov>